



*Jan & Feb*  
*1976*



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VOLUME 11- NUMBER 1

January-February 1976

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CLUB NEWS FROM OUR AREA

The Keokuk Fall Hobby Show had Exhibit winners as follows: Best of Show- Marcia Armstrong; 1st Place- Paul Lyons; 2nd- Helen Wallace, 3rd- Lee Marsh. Winners of the Gold Coin Raffle were - Howard G. Smith(gold coin), A.R. Ramirez (Proof Set), and Greg Horn (BiCentennial Mint Set). The Club reports they still have 1976 Keokuk Coin Club medals available. Anyone interested is asked to contact Helen Wallace or Al Rickert.

Tri-Cities Coin Club slate of officers were elected unanimously. They are- President: John T. Myers; Vice-Pres.: Jim McMeen; Secy-Treas.: George Wolters; and Directors: Jerry Bulins, Earle Cook and A. P. Schmitt. The 1976 Annual Show will be Sunday, Sept.19, at the LeClaire Hotel. The regular monthly meeting place is now in the meeting room of the new Moline Township Hall, 620 18th Street in Moline. Business meetings start at 7:30.

The Siouxland Coin Collectors Association of Sioux City has named Frank Osdoba as President. Serving with him will be Don Etzel, Vice-President; Ralph Tritz, Treasurer; Lois Mitchell, Secretary; Earl Martin and Loren Peterson, Program Chairmen; John Anderson, bourse chairman; Jim Vanderhelm, Historian and auction manager; and Harlow Graham, honorary public relations chairman and assistant auction manager. Interested persons are invited to attend the next Club meeting at 7:30 PM, at the Elks Club, the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Burlington Coin Club will hold a Spring Auction on Tuesday, April 27, in the Iowa Southern Utilities Auditorium, 209 N. 3rd Street in Burlington.

The Wapsie Coin Club of Independence will sponsor a Coin Show on April 25, in the American Legion Hall in Independence.

The Cedar Rapids Coin Club will host its annual Coin Show on March 13-14, at the IBEW Hall, just off Highway 30 West. The Club also reports an attendance of over 80 members at its December meeting, with 5 new member applications given a reading. The meeting was a Christmas Party, with entertainment and refreshments. Each attending member was given a BU Franklin half dollar, by the Club.

The 13th Mid-Iowa Coin-a-Rama will be held February 28-29, at Perry, Iowa. Hours are 9-6, Sat. and 10-4:30 on Sunday. This event is sponsored by the following Coin Clubs- Ames, Boone, Perry and Grand Junction. General Chairman is Art Nelson of Ames. Bourse and Exhibit applications are being accepted by L. L. Owen and Don Mark. This Show will also serve as an interim meeting of the Board of the INA and all members are asked to attend. This meeting is to be held on Saturday afternoon.

The Forest City 17th Annual Coin Show is set for March 20-21. An incorrect date was given in a previous Bulletin. The event will be at the Civic Auditorium in Forest City. General Chairman is Gene Morris.

The River City Coin Club of Mason City will hold its 7th Annual Coin Show on April 3-4, at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Mike Broers is in charge.

INA Secretary JoAnn Peters reports 34 new members for our organization since the Convention in October. Also, 5 persons have paid their Life Memberships. If you are interested in becoming a Life Member, contact Mrs. Peters. She will give you the needed information.

## STATE-WIDE CLUB MEETING NIGHTS

Ames Coin Club - last Wed. - University Drive-In Bank - 7:30  
Burlington - last Tues. - Perkins School, 1612 Dodge - 7:30  
Carroll County - 1st Tues. - Farm Bureau Bldg. - 7:30  
Cedar Falls- last Wed.- Cedar Falls Municipal Utilities Bldg.  
Cedar Rapids- 2nd Wed.-First Trust Savings Drive-In Bank-1820 1st Ave.E.  
Central Iowa Coin Club, Marshalltown- 3rd Wed.-Fisher Community Bldg.  
Clarinda Coin Club - 3rd Wed.- Community Center - 7:30  
Clarion - 3rd Thurs.- Iowa Public Service Comm. Rm. - 7:00  
Davenport-2nd Tues.-Northwest Turner Hall, 1602 Washington- 7:30  
Des Moines - 1st Tues.-Mott Auditorium, YMCA - 101 Locust St.  
Donnellson- 2nd Thurs.- Farm Bureau basement - 7:30  
Forest City - 2nd Tues. at the IOOF Hall  
Fort Madison - 3rd Wed. - Ft. Madison YMCA - 7:30  
Grinnell - 2nd Mon. - American Legion Bldg.  
Illowa Coin Club of Clinton- 2nd Thurs.-IOOF Bldg, Roosevelt St.-N.  
Independence - 3rd Sat. - Courthouse basement  
Keokuk-4th Thurs.-State Central Savings Bank-Comm. Rm.-603 Main St.  
Marion - 1st Tues. - Farmers State Bank  
Mason City - 3rd Mon. - Pioneer Federal Savings and Loan  
Mt. Pleasant - 1st Thurs. in large conference room of M. H. I.  
Newton - 3rd Tues. in basement of shopping center  
Oskaloosa - 1st Mon.- Oskaloosa Home Loan and Savings  
Ottumwa - 4th Tues.- Labor Hall on North Green St.  
Port City- Muscatine - 4th Tues. - YMCA  
Red Oak - 1st Mon.- Farmers Mercantile on old Highway 34 - 7:30  
Siouxland - 2nd Thurs.-Elks Lodge, 722 Douglas, Sioux City  
Tri-Cities, Moline, Ill.-3rd Thurs.-Moline Township Hall-18th St.Moline  
Tri-County, Perry- 4th Tues. - 1st National Bank Bldg.  
Waterloo - 2nd Thurs. - Waterloo Recreation Center  
Webster City - 1st Wed. at the Municipal Bldg. - 7:30  
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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 28-29- Mid-Iowa Coin-a-Rama - Perry  
Mar. 13-14- Cedar Rapids Spring Show - IBEW Hall  
Mar. 20-21- Forest City Coin Show  
Apr. 3-4- Mason City - KC Hall  
Apr. 9-10-11-- Walt Johnson's Extravaganza - Des Moines  
Apr. 25- Wapsie Coin Club of Independence - Am. Legion Hall  
Apr. 27 - Burlington Spring Auction  
Sept. 19 - Tri-Cities Coin Show - LeClaire Hotel, Moline  
Sept. 25-26- Britt Coin Show  
OCT. 2-3 - I. N. A. CONVENTION - Cedar Rapids

(Ed. Note - If your Club has a Show date set, please send the notice to me. This is an ideal way to publicize your event throughout the State - and it's free.)

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## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Is it possible for all the Iowa Shows in 1976 to make every effort to secure honest and qualified Judges? If a judge is so partial to some certain exhibit that he or she cannot make an honest judgement according to the point system used for judging, then he or she should disqualify himself.

During the past ten years, I have kept a record of some of the comments heard from different judges. Some of them are funny, but they can also be discouraging to many exhibitors, especially the newer ones. Judges should help exhibitors better their displays, not discourage them from exhibiting.

Here are a few remarks from some of the so-called "good" judges. You be the Judge as to whether you think these remarks should be made or not---

1. I told this exhibitor two years ago what I didn't like about his exhibit and since he didn't change it or take my advice, I cut him down ten more points each year.
2. I gave you less points this year because I'm tired of looking at your exhibit.
3. I am a 100% currency man. I don't even have to look at the exhibits - I know in advance who my winners will be.
4. I didn't know if it was complete and didn't want to ask anyone, so I just gave him half the points for completeness.
5. If I see the same exhibit at more than one Show, I allow less points for each succeeding Show.
6. This Exhibit didn't have enough coins, or, this Exhibit had too many coins for anyone to look at all of them, so I cut down on the points. (Where is the happy medium?)
7. I don't pay too much attention to the point system; I judge according as to what I like best.
8. If I know an exhibit has won at another Show, it must be good; so it is easier to judge it and allow an extra point or two. It doesn't take so long to judge.
9. I don't spend much time. I don't really like to judge, but they asked me.
10. I think it's only fair to rate my friends and fellow club members a little higher than I usually do others. I don't pay much attention to the Title; I just rate them as to how much I like them.
11. Judging takes too long; so I usually go by what looks best to me the first time around.

There have been other remarks from Judges just as funny and just as stupid, but these are a few I am sure most exhibitors have heard.

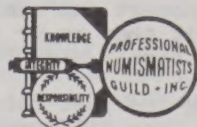
It would be very nice if all the Iowa Shows would use the same point system for judging. Lowell Owen has a good sheet of the points used by the Mid-Iowa Coin-a-Rama, if anyone is interested.

The Judges should be acquainted with the rules for Judging and judge accordingly, or not judge at all.

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE - continued

Every exhibitor has the right to see the way his exhibits are judged by all the Judges, and the points given to each exhibit. A Judge should be prepared to tell a person how to better the exhibit. Some Judges just don't know, while others won't give the exhibitor any information. Also, some exhibit chairmen won't let the exhibitor see how he or she came out. That is not good, either.

I believe the Exhibit chairman should tally the judges sheets. One Judge should not do the work of the chairman or change his figures after he has seen the other judges sheets. If the Exhibit chairman doesn't have time to do his work, which includes adding up the judges scores to determine the winners and putting out the trophies, then he should have a helper.

Is it possible for the Show Chairmen, Exhibit Chairmen, Judges (including some that shouldn't, but maybe can learn), and the I.N.A. Officers and Iowa exhibitors to all work together to make the exhibits at the Iowa shows better and the judging more uniform?

If any experienced exhibitor or any qualified judge has any pointers to pass along to other exhibitors and exhibit chairmen, please write an article for the I.N.A. Bulletin, so that eventually we can get judging on a more dependable basis, regardless of what part of the State a show may be held.

Sometimes a judge lets the value of an exhibit influence his decision. Sometimes a piece of obsolete currency, a wooden nickel, a medal or token, may be more rare or scarce than something of greater value, and this should all be taken into consideration, not just the value.

The exhibits at Iowa Shows are rated among the top anywhere. Let us all try to keep it that way and to encourage more Collectors to exhibit.

Even though some get a little carried away at times and don't use the common sense that they have, we do have some of the best dealers, exhibitors, judges and people in general, right here in the great State of Iowa. Happy Collecting.

Respectfully yours,  
*Eugene Morris*  
Eugene "Gene" Morris  
President, I.N.A.

\*\*\*\*\*

Note-- The following article is an edited version of one published in the "Illna" magazine. It was written by Erthel Rose. It is on the same theme as Gene's letter and we thought it might be interesting to those of you who do work at exhibits.....

#### HOW TO PREPARE AN AWARD-WINNING EXHIBIT

From time immemorial people have collected things: the odd, the curious, the things of rare beauty and of great value. It seems that a collector has an inner urge to complete a set and then work at improving it until it has reached perfection. The collections may range from buttons to coins, and collectors love to talk about and display their collections to one another.

Many coin collectors that may be willing to show their collections to friends may, however, be reluctant to exhibit their coins at a show. There are two major reasons why this is true. First, the collector may believe his collection is not worthy of showing. Nonsense! Most collections can

(continued)



## EXHIBIT (continued)

be made into very attractive displays if a little imagination is used. The second reason is that the collector doesn't know how to go about planning and preparing a display or exhibit. Then, I suggest that he pay close attention to the exhibits when he goes to a show. Observe the award-winning collections to see what made them winners. Also, talk to the exhibitors, and you will find that they can be very helpful. Therefore, neither reason is valid for not showing what might be a very interesting and unique exhibit.

Not knowing how to plan and arrange an exhibit can be corrected with some study. First, let me admit that planning and arranging an award winning exhibit is not an easy task. It requires a lot of work. In fact, you should start preparing your exhibit weeks or months in advance of the show date. It takes time to shop for background items to use in an exhibit; you might have to look in many places for a few items that are distinctive and eye-catching.

Also, an exhibit should be sketched on paper in order to determine how much space will be required. The exhibit must not be crowded, nor can it be put together too sparsely. There must be balance. All of this requires planning, so for your exhibit --planning is the key word.

Another very important factor in an exhibit is color and the correct combination of colors. In fact, color tastefully used can make an ordinary exhibit into a really outstanding and award-winning display. If your knowledge of color is limited, use the color wheel to determine which colors will blend. You may want to use the primary colors of blue, red and yellow or you may want to use various complementary colors. There are no set rules of color harmony, because too many factors must be considered. If one color covers a large area and another near it covers only a tiny space, problems of harmony do not arise. The problems vary if one color covers a shiny area and the other covers a rough one. Any two colors could probably be made to blend harmoniously.

Another factor one might consider in using color is to choose colors relating to the seasons or to the specific month in which the exhibit will be shown. An imaginative person, however, will create his own color scheme after learning the properties and characteristics of color.

Attractive display cases can go a long way in making an exhibit become an award winner. At a show recently, one of the exhibitors had two cases made out of black walnut. He had made them himself and the craftsmanship was excellent. And, too, they had not cost very much except in time and effort. Therefore, it is best not to use old, beat-up display cases, because the judge will immediately question whether the exhibitor takes any pride in his exhibit. Also, be sure the case is clean and wash the glass on the inside and outside. Those fingerprints, smudges, and dust stick out like a sore thumb, and all it takes to eliminate that problem is a paper towel and some glass cleaner.

Another thing to do is keep everything labeled and packaged properly, so when you get to the show, the exhibit can be set up rapidly and efficiently. Keep a pair of gloves so the coins can be handled easily when placing them in the display. Be well organized; have everything in its place. Then, when dismantling the display, it will be easy to get everything packaged back the way it belongs.

Above all, take pride in the exhibit. Be exacting.

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Editors note--The Bulletin is always happy to reprint articles from other periodicals. If any reader sees something of interest, we would be glad to consider it. It would be preferable to have written permission from the author and/or the publication to use the material.--We need information on the meeting dates of the Algona Club. Maybe our new director from that area can supply this data.--The Bulletin urges all Officers and Directors to attend the interim Board meeting in Perry on Feb.28. The Board only meets two times a year- the other meeting is at the State Convention- and there is business that must be conducted at this time. This is an obligation you assume when you agree to serve.--We would appreciate comments on Gene's letter in regard to exhibits and judges. Gene is not only -----(continued)



### Editorial--continued

an exhibitor himself- he has also served as judge on many occasions. It is true- Iowa exhibits are outstanding. Those of us who have attended shows outside the State, will certainly agree with that statement.  
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The Bulletin is pleased to present an article on Check Collecting, which comes to us from Larry Adams of Boone. We are grateful for the time Larry and the other contributors have spent in preparing this type of material for us. We do try to vary the phases of collecting presented in the Bulletin; therefore, this will be part one of Larry's paper, with the remainder in a future edition.

### CHECK COLLECTING by Larry Adams

"Have you any old bank checks?" I've asked this question many times to my fellow coin collectors, but just what is CHECK-COLLECTING all about? Most of us write many checks in our day-to-day transactions; in fact, \$9 out of every \$10 spent is by check or related instrument. Check collecting includes both the "old" and modern type checks, and a host of other related material, such as drafts, promissory notes, gold dust receipts, certificates of deposit, bank drafts, money orders, vignettes, and stock and bond certificates. Some collectors even collect zipper bank bags, and in the case of myself, old check protectors.

My interest in check collecting started about 12 years ago. I was attending a coin show in Des Moines and met John Hickman, now the noted National Bank Note expert. At his table he displayed some bank checks and explained how easy it was to collect them and how interesting they were. Before long, I was collecting checks; I had saved a few blanks and started trying to get a counter check from every bank in Iowa, then went after the older checks. The idea of collecting checks was really novel; I knew banks issued notes, but only early State banks and some National Banks- however ALL banks used checks, so it was possible to have every bank represented eventually. I still don't have a check from every bank that ever existed in Iowa (there were over 2000, in 1922), but I would say I have a sizeable Iowa collection, since this has been my specialty. It has probably been the most enjoyable hobby I've ever pursued, although I became fascinated with all local history and have a keen interest in the local Nationals and tokens, which are also "History in Your Hand". John Hickman deserves the credit for inventing that term.

I have found bank directories are very useful tools for reference in check collecting. I have a number of recent copies of a pocket-sized Iowa Bank Directory, published by Northwestern Banker in Des Moines (sometimes this was a combined Iowa-Nebraska bank directory). I also have two early editions of this - for 1925 and 1928- which are especially useful for checking information on banks closed in the late 1920's and early 1930's. Populations of the towns are given, as are bank officers and figures.

If you are interested in Iowa bank history, I would like to suggest two books that would be helpful to you:

HISTORY OF BANKING IN IOWA (1922) by Howard H. Preston  
(State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City)  
They sometimes have copies available.

and  
BANKING IN FRONTIER IOWA 1836-1965 (1971) by Erling A. Erickson \$7.50  
Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa 50010

The Iowa Superintendent of Banking in Des Moines publishes an annual report which contains some helpful information. It is a current directory of all state-chartered banks, small-loan companies, and credit unions, with financial information. It also lists state banks that have newly opened, closed, merged, or changed names, and bank offices that have opened. National Bank information can be found in the book NATIONAL BANKS OF THE NOTE ISSUING PERIOD (1853-1935) (1968) by Louis Van Belkum. This contains a wealth of information from the reports and records of the Comptroller of the Currency. Available through leading coin dealers.

(To be continued in next issue)



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